

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A foamed tobacco composition comprising:
 - (a) tobacco particles,
 - 5 (b) water and
 - (c) a foam stabilizer comprising a hydroxyalkylated carbohydrate, said carbohydrate including a long chain alkyl or aralkyl group having 10 - 36 carbon atoms in an amount up to that which renders said carbohydrate less than 1 wt % soluble in water.
- 10 2. A foamed tobacco composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition has an average bubble diameter in the range of 40 - 75 microns with at least 98% of the bubbles having a diameter of 150 microns or less.
- 15 3. A foamed tobacco composition according to claim 1, wherein said long chain alkyl or aralkyl group is attached to said carbohydrate by an ether linkage.
- 20 4. A tobacco composition according to claim 1, wherein said hydroxyalkylated carbohydrate is a cellulose ether.
5. A tobacco composition according to claim 4, wherein said hydroxyalkylated carbohydrate is present in an amount of 0.1 - 0.5 wt %
25 on a dry basis.
6. A foamed tobacco composition comprising:
 - (a) tobacco particles,
 - (b) water and
 - 30 (c) a foam stabilizer comprising a cellulose ether having a sufficient degree of substitution of at least one member selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, hydroxyethyl and hydroxypropyl

groups to render said cellulose ether water soluble, said cellulose ether being further substituted with a long chain alkyl or aralkyl group having 10 - 36 carbon atoms in an amount between 0.1 wt. % and the amount which renders said cellulose ether less than 1 wt. % soluble in water.

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7. A foamed tobacco composition according to claim 6, wherein said composition has an average bubble diameter in the range of 40-75 microns and at least 98% of the bubbles have a diameter of 150 microns or less.

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8. A foamed tobacco composition comprising:

- (a) tobacco particles,
- (b) water and
- (c) a foam stabilizer comprising a hydrophobically modified

15 hydroxyalkylated carbohydrate,

said foamed tobacco composition having an average bubble diameter in the range of 40 - 75 microns with at least 98% of the bubbles having a diameter of 150 microns or less.

20 9. A tobacco product containing:

- (a) tobacco particles,
- (b) water and
- (c) a dried foam stabilizer comprising a hydroxyalkylated

25 carbohydrate, said carbohydrate including a long chain alkyl or aralkyl group having 10 - 36 carbon atoms in an amount up to that which renders said carbohydrate less than 1 wt % soluble if placed in water,

said product having a substantially closed cell structure.

30 10. A tobacco product according to claim 9, wherein said hydroxyalkylated carbohydrate includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyethylcellulose, ethylhydroxyethylcellulose and a galactomannan.

11. A tobacco product comprising:

- (a) tobacco particles and
- (b) a dried foam stabilizer comprising a cellulose ether having a
5 sufficient degree of substitution of at least one member selected from
the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, hydroxyethyl and hydroxypropyl
groups to render said cellulose ether soluble if placed in water, said
cellulose ether being further substituted with a long chain alkyl or aralkyl
group having 10 - 36 carbon atoms in an amount between 0.1 wt. % and
10 the amount which renders said cellulose ether less than 1 wt. % soluble
if placed in water, said product having a substantially closed cell
structure.

12. A tobacco product according to claim 11, wherein said long chain
15 alkyl or aralkyl group is attached to said cellulose ether by an ether
linkage.

13. A method making a tobacco product comprising the steps of:

- (a) forming an aqueous slurry comprising tobacco particles and
20 a foam stabilizer comprising a hydroxyalkylated carbohydrate, said
carbohydrate including a long chain alkyl or aralkyl group having 10 - 36
carbon atoms in an amount up to that which renders said carbohydrate
less than 1 wt % soluble in water,
- (b) agitating the slurry under conditions of high shear in order
25 to form a foam,
- (c) shaping the foam and
- (d) drying the shaped foam.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein said long chain alkyl or
30 aralkyl group is attached to said carbohydrate by an ether linkage.

15. A method according to claim 13, wherein said foam has a temperature of at least 90°F during agitation.

16. A method according to claim 13, wherein said hydroxyalkylated
5 carbohydrate includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethylcellulose, ethylhydroxyethylcellulose and a galactomannan.

17. A method of making a tobacco product having a substantially
10 closed cell structure comprising the steps of:
 (a) forming an aqueous slurry comprising tobacco particles and a foam stabilizer comprising a hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkylated carbohydrate,
 (b) agitating the slurry under conditions of high shear in order
15 to form a stabilized foam, the temperature of the slurry increasing to at least 90°F during foaming,
 (c) shaping the foam and
 (d) drying the shaped foam.

20 18. A method according to claim 17, wherein, after agitation, said stabilized foam has an average bubble diameter in the range of 40-75 microns and at least 98% of the bubbles have a diameter of 150 microns or less.

25 19. A method according to claim 17, wherein the slurry is not cooled during agitation.

20. A method of making a tobacco product comprising the steps of:
 (a) forming an aqueous slurry comprising tobacco particles and a
30 foam stabilizer comprising a cellulose ether having a sufficient degree of non-ionic substitution of at least one member selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, hydroxyethyl and hydroxypropyl groups to

render said cellulose ether water soluble, said cellulose ether being further substituted with a long chain alkyl or aralkyl group having 10 - 36 carbon atoms in an amount between 0.1 wt. % and the amount which renders said cellulose ether less than 1 wt. % soluble in water,

5 (b) agitating the slurry under conditions of high shear in order to form a foam,

(c) shaping the foam and

(d) drying the shaped foam.

10 21. A method according to claim 20, wherein said foam has a temperature of at least 90°F during agitation.

22. A method according to claim 21, wherein said cellulose ether is at least one member selected from the group consisting of
15 hydroxyethylcellulose and ethylhydroxyethylcellulose.